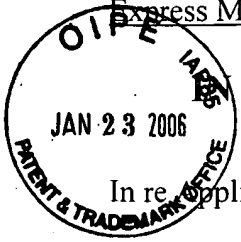


Application No. 09/880,514

Express Mail Label No. EV 721 157 816 US



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re. Application of:

Examiner: Michael C. Miggins

Pamela A. Kramer

Serial No. 09/880,514

Art Unit: 1772

Filed: June 12, 2001

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR THERMAL SPRAY PROCESSING
OF MEDICAL DEVICES

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §§1.97-1.98**

Dear Examiner:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Copies of the cited references are hereby submitted.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants reserve the right to dispute the listed documents as prior art during examination. Furthermore, Applicants do not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application. The submission of this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that no other material information may exist.

The Examiner is requested to initial the enclosed Form PTO-1449 and return a copy thereof to the undersigned.

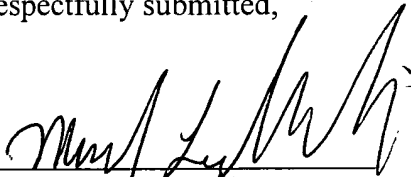
Application No. 09/880,514

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before receiving the first Office Action. Therefore, no certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is required. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies or other amounts due to Deposit Account No. 07-1850.


Date: January 23, 2006

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Respectfully submitted,



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|---|-------------|--|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| FORM PTO-1449 (Modified) | | US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE US Patent and Trademark Office | | Docket No. 50623.452 | Application No. 09/880,514 | | |
|  <p>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION in an Application (Use several sheets if necessary)</p> | | | | Applicant Pamela A. Kramer | | | |
| | | | | Filing Date June 12, 2001 | | Group -Art Unit 1772 | |
| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
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| EXAMINER | | | | DATE CONSIDERED | | | |
| EXAMINER: Initial if references considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP § 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. | | | | | | | |